



Application for 2019 Backyard Habitat Award

In an effort to promote wildlife habitat preservation and restoration in our region, the B-W Greenway Community Land Trust is continuing the Backyard Habitat Award Program. The goals of the program are to raise awareness of the importance of wildlife habitats and to recognize and honor the efforts our local citizens are making to sustain these habitats.

To qualify for the B-W Greenway Community Land Trust Backyard Habitat Award, individuals must reside in the B-W Greenway or be members of the Land Trust (membership application at www.bwgreenway.org). Nominated properties must meet minimum standards for four of the following five criteria created by the National Wildlife Federation:

1. **Food**
Grow native vegetation — like locally native shrubs, trees and other plants that produce acorns, berries and other seeds — to supply food for wildlife. For birds, feeders can supplement natural food sources.
2. **Water**
Provide a constant, reliable source of water with a birdbath, pond or shallow dish. Most wildlife need water for drinking and bathing.
3. **Cover**
Create cover for wildlife with densely branched shrubs, hollow logs, rock piles, brush piles, stone walls, evergreens, meadow grasses and deep water. This will protect wildlife against the elements and predators.
4. **Places to Raise Young** Offer wildlife safe places for courtship and nurturing young. Mature trees can provide den sites for squirrels and nesting places for birds. Host plants for caterpillars will ensure the presence of butterflies in your habitat. Salamanders, frogs and toads will thrive in a pond or water garden.
5. **Sustainable Gardening Practices** The way you garden or manage your landscape impacts wildlife in your yard and your entire neighborhood. Planting natives, reducing chemicals and building healthy soil are just some of the things you can do to help wildlife and conserve natural resources.

Individuals may nominate their own backyard or any other backyard or business they feel deserves this recognition. Simply complete application form below and submit it B-W Greenway, PO Box 3, Fairborn, OH 45324. A representative of B-W Greenway Community Land Trust will contact the nominee to arrange a visit for a habitat evaluation. For those habitats not meeting the criteria, suggestions will be given for improvements. These habitats will be eligible for future nomination. Application submissions must be received no later than August 20, 2019. The property owner/steward must be present when the habitat is assessed by the evaluator. Evaluation and selection of nominated habitats will be completed by September 17, 2019. Awardees will be announced at the annual B-W Greenway volunteer picnic on September 29, 2019 at which time owners of qualified Backyard Habitats will be awarded a certificate and a garden stone (see above). All nominees are invited to attend the picnic.

Backyard Habitat Award Application Form (Mail to B-W Greenway, PO Box 3, Fairborn, OH 45324)

Nominee's name:	Nominee's address / location of wildlife habitat:	Nominee's phone #:
Your name (if not nominee):	Your phone #: Preferred visit time:	
Nominated Back Yard in Greenway? (map at bwgreenway.org)		Is nominee a B-W Greenway member?

Scoring Guidelines on back

B-W Greenway Backyard Habitat Award

Criteria	1 Poor	2 Fair	3 Good	4 Exemplary	Your Score
Food	No food sources are present.	Few food sources are present. Many are from non native plant species. Reliance on feeders instead of plantings.	Habitat offers several food sources for various species. Most plantings are done with locally native species which serve as food sources.	Habitat offers a rich variety of food sources for amphibians, birds, fish (if applicable), insects, mammals, and reptiles. All plantings are done with locally native species. Feeders serve only as supplemental, not exclusive food sources.	
Water	No water source is present.	A water source is present intermittently during the year.	Multiple water sources are present during the year.	Multiple water sources are present year-round at various locations throughout the property.	
Cover	Marginal cover for wildlife present.	A few locations provide adequate cover.	Multiple sites provide cover for various species.	Wildlife is protected against the elements with an abundance of cover locations including densely branched shrubs, hollow logs, rock piles, brush piles, stone walls, evergreens, meadow grasses and deep water.	
Places to Raise Young	Few, if any places for wildlife to raise young.	Some effort made to establish places to raise young.	Multiple sites present for wildlife to raise young.	Numerous sites throughout the property offer wildlife safe places for courtship and nurturing young. [Pond(s) for amphibians, mature trees for birds, and host plants for caterpillars, for example].	
Sustainable Gardening Practices	Most gardening practices are unsustainable. Heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. No composting. Native species not considered for plantings.	Many non-native species planted. Plants regularly rely on summer irrigation for survival. Little use of compost. Occasional use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.	Only some non-native species planted. Good use of compost to build healthy soils. Minimal use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.	The habitat is maintained using sustainable gardening practices exclusively.	

EVALUATOR:

DATE: